"In principle" approvals have been accorded for greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa and Kannur in Kerala. A proposal received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a greenfield airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District, is under consideration. Proposals of new airports at Hassan, Bijapur, Shimoga and Gulbarga in Karnataka are under process for "in principle" approval. Many State Governments have indicated that they are in the process of formulating proposals for several new airports.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been mandated to construct three new airports in the North-Eastern States.

Subsidies to BPL families

†*94. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that benefits of different kinds of subsidy being extended to Below Poverty Line families/consumers in the country is not reaching them;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to reconsider different kinds of subsidy being provided by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: (a) the food subsidies are largely designed to be targeted to people Below the Poverty Line (BPL). The other two major subsidies, namely fertilizer and petroleum, particularly subsidy on LPG are available to all users/consumers. A study by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission regarding the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which covered 18 states, reveals that though the offtake per household has shown improvement under TPDS, yet only about 57 per cent of the BPL households are covered by it. Further the report finds that only about 42 per cent of the subsidized grains issued from the Central Pool reaches the target group.

(b) and (c) Based on evaluation studies and feedback received from states, a nine-point action plan has been jointly formulated by the Central and State/UT Governments to strengthen the TPDS. These include regular reviews of the BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists to ensure coverage of eligible families, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the public distribution system (PDS) operations, use of information technology, creating awareness among public about PDS operations, etc.

Mud clay pack treatment on Taj Mahal

*95. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started the mud clay pack treatment on the Taj Mahal, which has become due now;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost involved and schedule date of completion of work;

(c) whether Government has made any feasibility study of some other countries to know the effectiveness of mud clay pack on the white marble;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.